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LABRADOR.

EXTRACTS FROM THE MISSION STATION REPORTS, 1916-1917.

Hopedale.

BY the goodness of God we have arrived at the close of another Ship's Year. Various things have combined together to make it a busy time. We have never been at a loss to know how to occupy the hours of the fast-fleeting days, but have often wished we could crowd in a few extra hours between morning and night, in order to be able to accomplish some of the many tasks waiting to be performed.

Our thoughts fly back to the commencement of this Ship's Year and the anxiety with which we awaited the arrival of reliable news from the outside world. But this anxiety is like a recurring decimal; it comes again regularly every spring, and is by no means relieved by the scanty items of news one gleans from the Newfoundland fishermen, whose information concerning stirring events that are happening in the world is most astoundingly scanty.

Epidemic of Measles.

Vessels arriving from the south brought news of a severe epidemic of measles which had raged in Newfoundland, and which seemed to be gradually working its way north along the Labrador Coast. It was not long before signs of the advance of the epidemic appeared in our own small community. One of our Eskimoes had occasion to seek surgical attention at the M.D.S.F. hospital at Indian Harbour, and he brought back the germs with him. To isolate an infectious case among the Eskimoes is almost an impossibility. Impelled by sympathy or inquisitiveness, or, maybe, by a little of both, friends and acquaintances visit the sick, and will not obey the rules of isolation. They are saturated with fatalism, too, and that tends largely to make them very careless. As a consequence of this lack of understanding and care infection was rapidly carried from house to house, and before the summer ended practically every Eskimo family had one or more members sick with the disease. It proved somewhat malignant, too, and we have to attribute at least 13 deaths, directly or indirectly, to the epidemic. Br. H. Asboe had a very busy time attending to all the patients. It must have come very hard on him, after seeing the whole course of the epidemic through in Hopedale, to remove to Okak and find, on taking over the medical work there, that the Eskimoes were just developing measles and that he would soon again have his hands full of patients.

Visits to Uviluktók.

During July and August, 1916, Brn. Perrett and Asboe alternately visited Uviluktók, to hold Sunday services for the Eskimoes stationed at that island for fishing. This was only rendered possible for the brethren by the kindness of one of the Eskimoes, who owns a motor-boat, and who very generously sent his boat to Hopedale to fetch the brethren on Saturdays and to convey them home again on Sunday evening or Monday morning. The services of two men are required for the boat, and on the double trip, making a distance of 72 miles, quite a quantity of gasoline and oil are consumed. We were pleased with the generosity of our Eskimo friend; it is a step in the right direction. We consider that, if the services of the missionary are required or desired away from the station, the Eskimoes should arrange among themselves to convey him to and fro free of expense to the Mission. The Labrador Mission will probably never attain to self-support, but in small ways, like the above-mentioned, a little advance on these lines might well be made. It is true, we possess a motor-boat of our own for such purposes, but the engine seems to suffer from a chronic attack of "broken-downness." If one part is put in repair something else gives out, so that it is a constant worry and expense, and for at least three summers it has been of no further use than to try the patience and exercise the muscles of those who attempted to run it.

Weather Conditions.

For our small gardens the summer of 1916 proved one of the most favourable we have known for upwards of 20 years. It was a pleasure to be able to harvest fine heads of cauliflower, cabbage, &c., a privilege not often enjoyed in Labrador.

The warm summer was followed by a mild autumn, the result of which was that the sea did not freeze up till about the New Year. This had its disadvantages as well as its advantages. Those of our Eskimoes who had spent the autumn at their solitary sealing posts miles away from the station could not get here for the Christmas and New Year services, so that we were a comparatively small congregation. The children especially were grieved at not being here to see "Father Christmas" and receive their toys, dolls, &c., from his hands. One decided advantage of the late freeze-up, however, was that some of the sealing crews made good catches about Christmas and so were well provided for for the winter. A catch of 40 or 50 seals means a good supply of meat for man and beast, a good quantity of blubber for sale, and a good stock of skins to be made into skin-boots, which command a good price and are, of course, a great help.

The Winter's Work and Visitors.

With the advent of the New Year we are accustomed to settle down to our regular routine of winter work. In this respect one year differs very little from another. School is held by two of our native helpers, Ambrosius and Johanna Assa, for the Eskimo children; English school is carried on for some weeks by the Mission staff for the English-speaking children of our outlying settler members; and visits are paid to and services conducted at the homes of our scattered members, some of whom live about 70 miles distant from the station. A great amount of work of one kind and another is done during these busy months, and one has not time to be idle. The aim is the fulfilment of the petition: "Thy kingdom come"; of what is accomplished we attempt no estimate; that secret is not yet revealed to us.

Various little breaks in the monotony of our isolated life here were occasioned by the visits of the Brn. Lenz, from Makkovik, and Asboe, from Okak; of Dr. Paddon, of the M.D.S.F., from Hamilton Inlet; of Mrs. Dailey, an American lady who had spent the winter in Makkovik and was on her way to Okak, where she purposed residing till the summer; and of our old friend and fellow-worker among the Eskimoes, the Rev. S. M. Stewart, of the Colonial and Continental Church Society, who was journeying south to Makkovik from Ungava, where he will await the first Mail Steamer in the summer. It is very refreshing to have a chat with such as these; would that opportunities occurred more frequently.

The Eskimo Dogs.

For the Passion Week and Easter services we had a very large influx of visitors. All stations excepting distant Killinek were represented. Including our own outlying members who had journeyed hither, *i.e.*, the non-resident portion of the Hopedale congregation, our visitors numbered 110; so that the Eskimo houses must all have been uncomfortably full. The seating accommodation of the church was taxed to its utmost. Especially noticeable was the large number of dogs which were prowling round at this time. One of our Eskimoes went to the trouble of counting the dogs, and found they mustered a regiment of no less than 463. It required something to feed such a pack every day. And what a charm they made every time the bell rang! About 11 p m., too, they united, as with one consent, in holding their evensong. One would lift up its voice in a dismal howl—a nerve-racking solo—and soon the chorus would roll like a huge wave through the village. Talk about part singing! One could hear all manner of parts, from demi-semi-squeaky soprano to demi-semi-double bass, in tune and out of tune. It was a most weird sound. Happy the person who could sleep through it, or happy the one who could control his temper and listen to and laugh at the pitch of the different voices. Every dog seemed to be doing its utmost to drown the voices of its fellows, and it is curious how they all seemed to succeed.

For the work they are required to do the dogs are valuable animals, but out of working hours they are apt to become a veritable nuisance. They disturb one's slumbers by their quarrelling and fighting; they lie round in the paths and in the porches of the houses, and often wait to be kicked before they will move out of the way. They make one fearful of being bitten or of falling over them in the dark; and, given the slightest opportunity, they break into a house whose inmates have gone for a friendly gossip with a neighbour and tear up and destroy everything they come in contact with. If they confined their depredations to inanimate objects it would be sufficiently riling, but when they turn their attention to human flesh they overstep the mark entirely.

On June 13th this year several little children were playing hide-and-seek round one of the Eskimo houses, when suddenly one of them began to scream. She had seen the team of dogs, that had been apparently sleeping and taking no notice of the happy youngsters, knock her little step-brother down and begin biting him. The boy, six years old, was knocked down on his face and presumably had no chance of making a noise. The people in the house heard nothing, but the mother, at a distance, heard the scream and ran to see what was happening. She snatched the little fellow up from among the dogs, but he was already very much bitten and torn. He had probably 60 or 70 wounds on him, some as large as a duck's egg, some small, and it took us a long time to stitch him up and bandage him from

the crown of the head to the knees. We are pleased to see that under Br. Bohlmann's care he is almost well again by the end of the month. It is a wonder the little fellow got off as lightly as he did, with only flesh wounds. Another minute under the savage brutes might easily have cost him his life. The owner of the team of 9 strong dogs which did the damage promptly hanged the whole bunch. It was certainly the only wise thing to do, although it is a loss for him.

Peace and Quietness.

We thank God we have been able to prosecute our work among the Eskimoes in peace and quietness.

How quiet we are in some respects will be understood when we mention that we have been nearly four months without news of the outside world. It is quite possible there are some who envy us our quietness; for our part we shall be glad to get a delivery of letters and newspapers and learn how things are moving in other countries.

May God graciously further the work here to the salvation of souls, and may He sustain the interest of friends at home in the work, so that they shall not weary in praying and in giving.

W. W. PERRETT.

Makkovik.

Temporal Matters.

In temporal matters the serious consequences of the war are felt more and more at this station, especially owing to the high prices of foodstuffs. And yet, how faithfully has not our God cared for us in this respect too! Step by step, as the prices of imported goods rose, the payments received for the chief product of our own country, viz., the codfish, rose also; and as the catch of fish during the past summer here was, generally speaking, a good one, there has not been any real want among our people locally.

The past summer (1916) was exceptionally warm and bright. Garden produce did better than ever before, and on the hills there was an abundance of bilberries, cranberries, and blackberries. Labrador would be an ideal land during its short summer, were it not for the fact that the mosquitoes are so numerous—the finer the weather, the greater the plague of mosquitoes!

The Summer and Autumn of 1916.

Then, too, during the past summer—from the end of July to the end of September—we had an epidemic of measles here, which attacked all those who had not had this sickness before. It was a trying time for many. In many homes from four to six persons were down with it at one time. Still, we had but few fatal cases. Only one old man, 78 years of age, died from the direct effects of the sickness, while two other men succumbed to inflammation of the lungs after measles.

Autumn commenced early, and in November we experienced exceptionally cold weather; with the result that at the end of that month our bay was frozen over. Much to our surprise a steamer arrived here on November 27th, coated all over with ice. Two or three of our local Settlers had not ordered their winter supplies soon enough from St. John's, for which reason the *Fagota* came here direct from Newfoundland, bringing said supplies. Hitherto the *Harmony* has held the record for being the last vessel to visit the Coast during the year.

After this vessel had left us on the following day, very mild weather set in, and this lasted throughout the greater part of December; with the result that even at New Year only the upper, or inland, portions of the bays were frozen over. Still, quite a number of people came to the station at New Year—also for the Church Festivals which were held for the young people and the married folk. We had the best attendances in the Passion Week and at Easter. These were days of rich blessing for us and our people. It is specially pleasing to us to see that among the young people there are several who are inquiring after Jesus and the way of life. On the other hand, we are oftentimes grieved to see how great a power the sins of the flesh have over certain individuals. But we remember that we have to do with One Who came to destroy the works of the devil.

The New Boarding School.

Our Boarding School was attended by 20 children. This represents the largest attendance registered since we came here. Our two children also attended the classes. The new schoolhouse is a great acquisition, and suffices for all purposes. Mrs. Ellen Andersen, who acted as housekeeper the year before, again during the past winter devoted her time and her strength to the school.

It was a great help to us that Mrs. Dailey (an American lady who spent the winter with us here) took an active part in the teaching. She had also kept school for the children residing on the spot every afternoon since the commencement of the year. We were very thankful for her help, which was given readily and without payment.

Visitors.

After Easter Mrs Dailey went to Okak, in order to spend the spring at that station. In March, Br. Asboe, of the Okak Hospital, paid us a visit, and at Easter Dr. Paddon, of Hamilton Inlet, who found doctor's work of various kinds awaiting him here. On May 10th, the Rev. S. M. Stewart, of Ungava, arrived. He wanted to await the mailboat here. A few days ago he left us for Ailik, where he expected to be able to pick up his steamer. We are anxiously awaiting news from the homelands, the usual April sledge-post not having put in an appearance this time, owing to the thaw that has set in. And above all things we are hoping and praying that our ship, the *Harmony*, may again be protected from all the dangers of the sea, and that she will soon gladden our hearts by her arrival.

B. LENZ.

Nain.

Unusually Long and Fine Summer.

The past year was a quite exceptional one. Firstly, as regards the weather conditions, and these are of special importance for the economic life of our people. The summer of last year commenced uncommonly early—early in June already the bay was free of ice. Continuous westerly winds brought us splendid summer weather—so very desirable for our gardens, but most unfavourable for the fishing operations of our people. The sea, too, remained free of ice for an unusual length of time—for not until after Christmas did it freeze over in our neighbourhood, whilst elsewhere it was much later. Indeed, as late as the end of January the post-sledge had difficulty in getting to Makkovik.

For the well-being of our people, externally, this unusually long and fine summer was not at all favourable. Neither with the net nor with the line was it possible to catch enough fish to make it pay. Unfortunately, too, some of the men were greatly hampered in their fishing operations by attacks of rheumatism. In the autumn it had the appearance as if the seal catch would be a good one. Large numbers of seals came a long way up the bays; and in places bridges of ice began to form, which shut off the open waters of the bays from the open waters of the sea. But the frost was not severe enough; the seals easily broke through the ice-barrier, and easterly winds with snow destroyed all the fine prospects of the people.

Many Seals Caught.

At the net sealing-places the prospects were better. Shortly before Christmas several families arrived back here, travelling across country and utilising a few badly broken ice-bridges, and reported that there was a plentiful supply of seals at the sealing-places situated to the north-east of the station. At length, after Christmas, severe cold set in, and on New Year's Day we had news from all the sealing-places. This differed considerably according to the locality. At the former seal netting-place belonging to our station store (Ivilik)—now unfortunately in the possession of a settler-dealer—the unprecedented number of 483 seals was bagged, and our Nain "magnate," William Barber, caught as many as 500 in his nets. But at all the other places the seal-catch was a failure. The grand success of the few might easily have relieved the wants of the many who operate only in a small way; and William Barber did let several of his poorer fellow-countrymen have seal-meat without payment, or, at any rate, in payment for help they had rendered him. But the meat without the skins, which alone are of importance as an article of barter, is of little use, and the price of sealskins was raised so considerably by the "magnates" that but few people could afford to purchase them and convert them into boots. Accordingly, there was a good deal of poverty all

through the winter, and the administration of the Poor's Fund was a not inconsiderable task. There were very few foxes about, with the result that the poverty of the people was not diminished by the fur-catch.

No Epidemic of Sickness.

We were, thank God, spared any serious epidemic of sickness; but a severe form of rheumatism was widespread among our people, and many heads of families were so affected thereby during the whole of the winter that they were unable to do anything towards the support of their families.

The Lord has graciously helped us through this trying time: in Him will we continue to trust undismayed.

Philip Hunter.

In last year's report we referred to the sad case of Philip Hunter, a native Helper. After he was placed under Church discipline, he assiduously avoided all the services of the sanctuary, and did all he could to induce others to rebel against the Church regulations. By this means he endeavoured to silence the voice of conscience, and he affected to have been wronged by us. Not long after Christmas he came back from his winter hunting-place, as he was in need of our assistance. Whilst attending to his fox traps, accidentally a large trap went off and crushed the top joint of his left thumb. Condemned thereby to idleness, he now found time to "come to himself." True, he still tried to turn a deaf ear to the accusing voice of conscience, but at Christmas time he appeared once more (for the first time since his "exclusion") in the church. His thumb healed, but the Lord sent him a new "cross," for he contracted rheumatism in the injured hand and elsewhere, and this gave him a lot of trouble. Then, at last, his pride broke down, and he begged to be readmitted to full Church membership, and this was readily granted him. His bodily ailments have not disappeared to this day, and they will probably leave their mark permanently upon him. It is our hope that these latter will always be a reminder to him that it is only the humble-minded who can partake of the grace of God.

Preaching and Pastoral Work.

The Word of the Cross has again during the past year been preached in all its fulness, and it would almost appear to us as if our people had been more receptive than during the two preceding years. With the attendance at the Church services on the part of our people we have never really any fault to find, and in the course of our pastoral work we seldom meet with direct opposition. In order, at least on Sunday evenings, to keep the young men from hanging about, which is so harmful to them, we held meetings during the winter months in the schoolroom, at which, in addition to Bible talks, we brought to

their notice all sorts of interesting and instructive things from the realm of Nature. Besides the young men, we had also present on these occasions quite a number of elderly men and women, who frequently evinced their interest in what was going on by asking questions.

Eskimo and English School.

The school was also well attended, and the examination which was held shortly before Easter showed that the efforts of the teacher had not all been in vain. The results achieved in connection with the English school, the attendance at which was naturally poor, were not encouraging. Beyond doubt, the Eskimo children are urged to learn by their parents at home, more than are those of the Settlers. To this must be added the shortness of the time allotted to the school. But it will hardly be possible to alter this state of things, unless and until teachers are specially appointed for the purpose.

Notwithstanding all the unrest and uncertainty of the present time, and the doubts which ever and again arise in our minds regarding the future of our Mission here, and of our Church at large, we will firmly believe and trust in Him, our God, Who can carry on His work in spite of all that is happening at the present time.

P. HETTASCH.

Okak.

Visit of Patrol Boat and "Harmony."

Already on July 3rd (1916) the first schooner passed our way, and on the 7th the patrol-boat arrived which was frequently here during the previous year. On the 16th it was back again—this time in the capacity of pilot-boat to a large steamer manned by marines. The officers visited us in our homes, and made various inquiries.

On August 8th the *Harmony* arrived, which gave us all cause for thanksgiving and praise, both European and Eskimoes.

A Thunderstorm.

On August 21st, shortly after midnight, we experienced a violent thunderstorm—more violent than any here could remember ever having known before. The whole place was continually lighted up by the flashes of lightning, and our house shook with the mighty claps of thunder. And when, later on in the autumn, the measles broke out so violently, our people declared they had expected something of the kind and the thunderstorm had been only a premonition and warning of same!

Measles.

On September 27th the first cases of measles occurred. With a view to checking the spread of the sickness, we rearranged the church building and placed the first families there that were affected. Unfortunately, however, the disease spread rapidly and our plan of isolation proved ineffectual - only that it was easier for us to nurse the patients there. Some of the older folk, too, made fun of our precautionary measures and maintained that there was no escaping from anything which God had sent us.

Visitors.

On September 28th the *Harmony* returned from Killinek, having on board Br. and Sr. Filschke, who were being sent to England. When, on the 29th, the *Harmony* left us again, Dr. and Mrs. Barlow and their child were passengers on board of her to Newfoundland, where the doctor had obtained employment.

Spread of the Measles.

The sickness spread rapidly at the people's fishing-places, and on October 1st three whole families were brought in by the motor-boat who had signalled to passing boats that they were in trouble. They were all prostrate with the sickness, and only one man was able to walk unaided. From other places also whole boatfuls of people came in. Many of them were in a wretched condition. Soon the church was full to overflowing, and we were obliged to send the people who still came in to their own homes. True, these latter did not fare as well as those who were in the church, as there was not the same careful nursing and there was a lack of firewood, for October was a very cold month. Soon the whole village was one great sickhouse. We nursed forty to fifty patients for about four weeks in the church, besides visiting the sick in their homes. This meant a great deal of work from early morning until late at night. We conducted prayers in the church both morning and evening, for which the people were very grateful.

In the month of October, from the 9th inst. onwards, twenty-nine adults and children died. It was a sad time, and taught us to pray more earnestly; but it was also a time of much blessing. Many sins were revealed, both past and present. One could not but wonder that so much could be stored in the human heart! Many of the sick were not able any more to make a confession of their sins, even if they had wanted to do so—death came upon them so suddenly. For this reason a great fear fell upon the others, and many of them promised to begin a new life. Many have not kept their promises faithfully, but others are endeavouring with God's help to live to His honour. A large number of them only recovered very slowly, and were compelled to stay at home during the autumn. Many, too, were unable, owing to their sickness, to dry their fish, and

this meant of course a loss to them. Those few who were able to go out seal hunting did well, for which we are all very thankful

Winter and Spring—Seals and Reindeer.

At Christmas those who had been living away from the station were not able to come to us, as there were seals still to be had. As there was no lack of seals in the spring, we again had a good many visitors from other stations. Those of our people, too, who went out reindeer hunting got a good many of these animals, and this was a good thing for them and for us.

Taken as a whole, the past winter was not a very severe one—indeed, the months of March and April were very warm, and the snow thawed very quickly. However, this did not remain so: and the end of April, the whole of May, and the beginning of June were very cold.

Statistical Notes.

The Okak congregation has declined in numbers very greatly during the past year. Since New Year, too, several have died. In the case of some their sinful lives were the cause of their early death. Tuberculosis, too, is making rapid progress among our people. Owing to their life in the wet and the cold, when they are out fishing and sealing, this complaint is furthered. Other ills that are imported from outside make this state of things worse.

S. WALDMANN.

Hebron.

The Spiritual Outlook.

Looking back over the past twelve months, we can see shade and light, things that sadden us and that give us joy. The Lord has spoken earnestly to us as a congregation, but he has also again been very gracious to us.

If we want to see signs of the new life in our congregation, we shall have to look very closely. before anything of the kind becomes evident. Only in the case of a few, and these mostly older people, is there any sign of the Divine life to be found, and we are glad of this; but we cannot say we are satisfied, for the majority have nothing to show, and where there is any life it does not flourish and grow, owing to the carnal mind of those concerned. But at the same time they all want to be saved. They all listen to God's Word, and read it for themselves; and this, the people think, suffices to ensure their reception hereafter among the Blessed. When we preach repentance, conversion, and judgment, they do as Felix did of old: "Ahavalloak," they say—i.e., "It ought to be so"—or they become angry and complain to us of the "sharp words" with which they have been hit! Still, that cannot and may not stop us from testifying of the truth.

A Seeking Soul.

We had cause to rejoice of late over one seeking soul. She sought to know, and was desirous of doing, the will of God, and begged us, as she knew a little of our language, to let her be present at evening prayers in our own family circle. We granted her request and she came every evening, even when the weather was at its worst. Since Easter she has been living at Saeglek, and we are convinced the Lord will complete the good work He has himself begun in her.

The Measles Epidemic.

As reported last autumn, the Lord has been speaking very plainly to our congregation here, not only by means of the preaching of the Word and by our pastoral work, but also by sickness. In September and October of last year everybody who had not had the measles in the "eighties" of the last century was attacked by this sickness. The people had taken the infection from some schooner-folk at Saeglek, and thus brought it here. A few had only a slight attack of it, and recovered after a few days. Others were brought to the verge of the grave and were in great fear of death, for their sins pressed hardly upon them. They promised, too, to start a new life, if the Lord would grant them recovery. Most of them did recover, too, and it seemed for a time as if they were in earnest with their vows. However, only too soon they were again living their old lives, and there is now nothing left of their good intentions. This is very sad, and we fear the Lord will have to speak to them in more earnest tones still, if they are to be led to repentance.

The People's Treatment of the Sick.

At this station one woman and two children died as a result of the measles; and at Saeglek, one woman and one child. The Ramah people were not affected at all. One young man and one woman died of consumption. In connection with these cases it once more became evident to us that the people manifest but little patience with their sick ones. When the afore-named young man was in the throes of death, his people were all afraid, thought he had a devil, quitted the house, and left him alone in his last struggle. One day I visited the woman referred to before, and when I arrived her husband went away, and I heard her calling to him to stay with her. However, he took no notice of her, until he saw me and went back with me. Of course, I took the opportunity to remind him of his duty. Another man nursed his wife faithfully when she was down with the measles; but when, later on, he was laid up with rheumatism and needed assistance, she grew impatient and grumbled because, she said, he made so many demands upon her time. She excused herself by saying that he wanted too much attention. During the past winter several men were laid up for a considerable time with rheumatism.

The Lack of Foodstuffs.

There has been no lack of foodstuffs here, for the Lord gave the Hebron people a very good catch of seals. In all, from Napârtok to Ramah, 1700-1800 seals were caught. All our people had enough meat to eat and plenty of sealskins from which to make boots, in exchange for which they were enabled to obtain all they required. A few reindeer were captured during the course of the winter, the flesh of which provided a pleasant change in our diet. There were only a few foxes caught, but as there was no lack of other things the loss of these was not felt so much.

The past winter was very much like the one before. Not till the end of January was the sea-ice fit for sledging purposes, but then it became very cold, and we were glad when in March a few warmer days were granted us.

Visitors and Visits Paid.

In March, Br. Asboe, of the Okak Hospital, paid us a visit, and he found not a little to do among our people.

After Easter, the Rev. S. M. Stewart, of Ungava (C.C.C.S.), was also here on his way south. He rested here a few days. After he left I visited the people at Saeglek and Ramah. Most of them had been here frequently during the winter, some for a considerable time, and at Easter all but six individuals were with us. Notwithstanding this, they were glad I had come to see them. The Napârtok people were also visited, and they too were thankful for the Bread of Life which was dispensed to them.

Since the middle of June we are having "open water" again, and we shall soon be getting into touch with the outside world. The first schooner passed here on June 27th, going northwards.

H. SIMON.

Killinek.

As it is time again, we take up our pen, to write you somewhat of the work carried on at this the most northern station in Labrador.

On September 18th, 1916, the *Harmony* arrived here, bringing supplies and Br. and Sr. Townley, to relieve Br and Sr. Filschke, who had been called to St. John's, Newfoundland, for an interview with the temporal authorities. On the 23rd the good ship left us, and we prepared to settle down for the fast approaching winter and our work for the Lord among the people here and in this district.

On our arrival we found there had been an increase in the number of the people on the Island and in the district, as the H.B.C. had put up a dwelling-house and store 10 minutes' walk from the mission-house. A former store-servant here in Killinek was left in charge, to trade, &c., during the winter, and after Easter a clerk, from Fort Chimo, Ungava, came to wait until the H.B.C.'s supply-ship, the *Nascopie*, arrived.

School Work.

Since our arrival the work has been kept going in regular routine, Sundays and week-days. Eskimo, and often English, services, extra, have been held for the two Settler families near us. In November, school for Eskimo and Settler children was begun and carried on until Easter, 1917. English and Eskimo were taught, and good progress was made in Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic—also in Singing and Scripture Knowledge. From January to Easter a sewing class was also carried on for the girls by Mrs. Townley, with the help of Miss Lyall; each girl made a pinafore. Attending the school we had 27 children—18 Eskimo and 9 Settler. The Missionary was the teacher for both classes. Attendance was excellent, and the results shown at the closing exercises gave great pleasure to the teachers, parents, &c. The proceedings were closed by distributing useful gifts and singing heartily "God Save the King" in Eskimo and English.

Christmas and New Year Celebrations.

For Christmas we had all our people here, with the exception of two families. On Sundays in the autumn we had congregation singing practices, and for several weeks previous to Christmas a few selected members of the congregation were under training as the nucleus of a future choir. At Christmas, Watch-night, New Year, &c., and during the winter, on special occasions from New Year till Easter, we made good use of the singers. The Watch-night Service was well attended, in spite of the cold and strong wind. On this the last day of the year 1916 seven sledges, containing men only, came from the west, and two sledges with only men came also from the south, Aulatsivik, &c. Thus the year closed with a good number of *Innuits*, Christian and heathen, within the sound of Killinek church bell, calling men to thank and praise the Lord for all His mercies to individuals and community. For the New Year we had more than our own people here. Some Eskimoes whom the Rev. S. Stewart, C.C.C.S., Ungava, claims as belonging to his flock, and who are now living in our district, were here for the New Year and heard the Word of Life. Since then they have been here often to trade at the new branch-store of the H.B.C. on our right. On New Year's Day, in the afternoon, cold as it was, we had "Sports" at the station on the ice. Useful prizes for shooting, running and obstacle races, tests of endurance, were offered, and won by the men. The Eskimo ladies we could not persuade to compete, though they often run after the football, even with babies in their hoods. In spite of the cold, participants and spectators spent a pleasant time and enjoyed themselves.

Other Church Festivals.

All our Church Festivals have been duly celebrated in the usual manner and, we believe, with blessing to all concerned. Early in the year we had applications for Confirmation and

advancement in Church status, and one applicant for adult baptism. Two persons applied for Confirmation, and 11 baptised adults sought communicant membership. In the course of the winter the two for Confirmation and nine of the others received preparatory instruction and were confirmed on Palm Sunday. On Maundy Thursday they partook of the Lord's Supper. On that occasion—all the communicants were present, 28 in number, in addition to the station staff—a nice little band of witnesses to the power of the Gospel at this place! All the Holy Communion services have been well attended. Lenten addresses and the Passion Week Readings were held, and our church was full, and we would add that the attendance has been extraordinarily good throughout the winter. Instruction in public and in private has been sought, and we have been pleased to serve Settler and Eskimo in things temporal and spiritual.

On Easter Sunday morning, for the first time here, at 6 a.m., we had the portion of the Easter Litany in the graveyard on the hillside, where the dead have been laid. Nearly all our people, old and young, joined in the service: it was a beautiful morning. On the following day we had an election for a Congregation Committee. After we had explained the purposes and duties, the male voting-members elected Konrad Jararuse and Michael Kallutak to that important Committee. Now for the first time we have men to assist our two male Helpers, William Jararuse and Benjamin Onalik, in village temporal affairs. The latter, with their wives, who are the female Helpers, have worked with us for the Lord to the best of their ability. Benjamin, who is a young man, has had some instruction during the winter, and once took charge of a liturgical service.

Statistics.

Among the Eskimoes life and work have gone on quietly and peaceably. Church discipline has been exercised on four occasions, and six persons were restored to their former status in the congregation. At the end of 1916 we had on our books in our care 124 persons, and in the district there were heathen, 31 in number (unbaptised adults and children)—total 155.

Health Conditions.

All through the winter, we may say, good health has been the portion of our people: no epidemic of measles. When we arrived, a few adults were ailing and some children suffering from Impetigo. In March a young man broke his collar-bone, through falling backwards into a crack in the ice. The bone was set, and he made a quick recovery. There has only been one death, a child, in December, 1916. We have had one wedding and one baptism since our coming here.

Finance and Patriotism.

Financially some of our people are not well off, but a few families are. Last autumn the seal-fishery was moderate, and this spring it was poor. In the winter fur was scarce. Never-

theless, contributions for various purposes are in excess of other years: for Church \$12.34, Foreign Missions \$29.63, School \$7.48; and books were sold to the amount of \$10.70. Several Eskimoes, baptised and unbaptised, have brought gifts of money, varying from 25 cents to a dollar in amount, to be forwarded to a fund for supplying the soldiers at the front with tobacco, &c. The total to date is 3 dollars and 25 cents.

May 24th, Empire Day, was celebrated here inside and outside the church. In the early part of the day guns made from logs of firewood were let off, volleys fired, and patriotic airs played in the open air on the gramophone. Flags flew all day, and in the evening there was a service in the church, and at the close of the address "God Save the King" was heartily sung by Eskimo and Settler alike. On June 23rd, a Sunday, the King's birthday was also remembered—flags were hoisted, and the Liturgy for the occasion used, with the addition of the National Anthem.

During the winter no news from the outside world reached us. In January our mail sledge went south to Hebron, and returned, after an absence of 47 days, without any letters from the other side of the Atlantic. Faith and patience are needed at this station, and, if exercised, will sooner or later have their reward!

In closing, we send to all friends and helpers in the homelands our hearty thanks and good wishes.

S. TOWNLEY.

REPORT OF THE MORAVIAN MISSION HOSPITAL AT OKAK, LABRADOR, 1916-17.

General Remarks.

In making up the report for the year just ended, one or two outstanding features present themselves for special mention.

The first fact to be noted is in reference to the change in the personnel of the Hospital. Dr. Barlow left Okak in September to take up a post at Trinity, Newfoundland. And so once again our Okak Hospital is minus a qualified doctor. This is certainly deplorable. We thoroughly appreciate the difficulty our Board has in procuring a licensed doctor during war-time; but, alas! the same difficulty has arisen previously, in peace times. "Livingstonians" can certainly fill a gap, and, as has often been proved, they can fill it well; yet this is not as good as having a real doctor.

The present occupants of the Hospital, the Rev. H. and Mrs. Asboe, arrived here from Hopedale in September, and were able to spend three weeks with Dr. and Mrs. Barlow, previous to the departure of the latter. These three weeks were thoroughly appreciated, as they gave us an opportunity to become initiated into the work.

It was not long before we were in the thick of the work, as there were signs of an epidemic of measles that seemed likely to spread throughout the entire village. Even whilst the Doctor was here we had a few cases, but the bulk of the work rested on our shoulders. It was indeed an anxious time, but we were strengthened for the task with a strength beyond our own. As has been mentioned in a previous report, we isolated the first few cases in the church, and the Hospital provided everything that was necessary for their comfort. We still believe that the people appreciated all that was done for them. Many in the beginning were reluctant to take up their quarters in the church, but afterwards realised the great advantage that they had over the others. The Medical Officer of Health in St. John's expressed his approval concerning the steps we took, in a personal letter received during the Winter.

Seals.

In spite of the epidemic coming nearly at the end of the cod-fishery season and being likely to prove a handicap to the sealing operations, our people here in Okak did remarkably well. Many were able to clear off their debts with the proceeds of the fishery, and most families were well provided with seals. We have had one of the most prosperous years of recent times. Then, again, in addition to the seals, in the early spring practically every man and youth in the village went off to try his luck at deer-hunting, and all were successful. There was such a supply of meat in the village that there was an epidemic of congested livers, owing to over-eating! Nevertheless, we are always glad when our people do well in the sealing. There is certainly money in seals—also, undoubtedly, seals are the very life and sustenance of the Eskimo. The success or failure of the sealing enters very largely into the problem of the future of the race, for without the seals the people have a poor chance of survival in this country, where endurance and strength play such an important part, and the deprivation of seals for our Eskimo is bound to leave a mark. The health of our people during the Winter, speaking generally, has been fairly good. The young adult life is still very vigorous, and is certainly the hopeful side of our work out here. Still, small beginnings of disease and infection, due in many cases to contagion, and also to the sins of the parents, begin to show themselves even among this class of the community.

Children.

We are glad to be able to state that, as in previous years, the children have not suffered want—the Hospital has kept the poorer parents supplied with the needful milk—but it is a great pity that nowadays the infants are more and more dependent on artificial feeding! Where does the hope for the race come in?

Hospital Work.

The work in our Hospital out-patients' room has been as active as ever. Rosina, the former nurse, requested to be transferred to the House side, and for a short time Josephine took her place, till she too left, as she was to be married to a Hebron man. Zippora is now our Hospital nurse, and so far has given much satisfaction. We sincerely hope that she will long remain with us.

In-Patients.

These numbered six in all. The readers of our magazines, and especially *Moravian Missions*, will probably be acquainted with the name of Johannes, or, as Dr. Hutton called him, "Little John." We are sorry to report his death here in the men's ward, on October 8th, 1916. He contracted measles, and nursed his family who were also down with the same complaint. He kept up till exhaustion compelled him to cease. Our motor-boat brought the whole family in, as well as a good many others, and undoubtedly Johannes caught a chill on his way in, and soon after pleurisy and pneumonia set in.

Only one anæsthetic has been given in the Operating Theatre, and this was kindly administered by Br. Waldmann, who is always ready to render all the help he can; and we take this opportunity of thanking him.

Visiting.

In the course of the year several visits were paid to sick people in their own homes. The greater part of the visiting is done in the middle of Winter, and it is often hard work, going from one house to another, when the snow is drifting hard and it is difficult to distinguish between snow-banks and houses. The people always appreciate our visits, and would like to be visited more frequently, but *we* know best when to go and how often it is desirable.

Travelling.

During the latter part of the Fall our Hospital motor-boat (3 h.p. "Gideon"), *The Northern Star*, was busy bringing in the people from their fishing camps. These were measles cases who desired to be where they could receive medical attention. In January a visit was paid to Hebron by dog-sledge, and several patients were seen and visited. In March Nain, Hopedale, and Makkovik were visited, and three weeks were spent away from home. We were fortunate in having fine weather. Now that we have "open water" once more, our motor-boat is hard at work again visiting the people at their Trouting and Sealing Camps. Wherever our boat goes she is always welcome, and there is always some work for us to do in our Master's name. It may be only little, still we think every visit and journey well repaid if relief and comfort from suffering is given. At any rate, the people realise that they are not forgotten. Mugford and

Cut Throat, the two chief out-settlements, have been visited several times, and schooner-men have often come within the range of our help.

In referring to travelling by dog-sledge and motor-boat, a word of praise and appreciation must be given to one man especially whom I have employed as driver and pilot. His name is Jakobus, and he lives chiefly at Cut Throat. It would be difficult to find a more genial travelling companion, or a more reliable and trustworthy man. One need never have a feeling of fear or any doubt when he takes the lead. He is known amongst us as a rascal. But it is often the case that the downright rascals on this Coast are the most reliable men for travelling, &c., and these are the ones we would like to see becoming real out-and-outers for the Master, so that the zeal and energy applied to earthly matters might be employed also in their spiritual life. Then, indeed, will they prove a power and influence for good.

Renovations.

We are glad to be able to report that we have reason now to be proud of our small surgery and the doctor's study, which were both repainted in the Spring. Everything appears fresh and clean, and we have the right person in Zippora to keep them so.

Concluding Remarks.

In writing this Report one is reminded that fourteen years have passed since Okak Hospital was built. We believe that the Hospital is thoroughly appreciated by all on the North Labrador Coast, but we think that this would be even more so if a permanent doctor could be placed here. We would urge those at home who have the superintending of this work to do their utmost to procure a qualified man for the post. The field is a wide one. Not only does it include those living in the village and the neighbouring districts within easy travelling distance, but also those from far-off shores—Settlers and half-castes—also schooner-men and other outsiders whom we see in Summer time. If we cannot soon find a suitable doctor for this place, I venture to think that the Government will either force us to do so or else take it over and run it as a Government Hospital. We must make this a matter for special prayer; and will our many friends at home help, so that we as a Mission out here among the Eskimoes may not have taken from us one of the most useful and blessed means of preaching and making known "the unsearchable riches of CHRIST."

We regret, and always will regret, that Dr. Hutton was compelled to discontinue his much-appreciated work, just as he had gained an insight into and was finding a solution for the many health problems of the Eskimo people. He is not forgotten. We long for another as keen and sympathetic as he was. Not just anybody will do, or be good enough for this post: but it

should be one who, besides being a good doctor, also has the Mission cause and the people at heart. Also he must have a desire for the deepening of the spiritual life of the people.

Will friends kindly remember Okak Hospital in their prayers, so that the right man may be found for the work.

Statistics for year ending June 30th, 1917.

Attendances (Out-Patients)	...	...	1,334
Visits	...	...	680
Dental Cases	...	...	30
Deaths—chiefly due to Measles	...	...	44
Births	...	...	4
Official Visits per Dog-sledge	...	...	4
Ditto per Motor-boat	...	...	5

IN-PATIENTS.

1. Axillary Abcess	...	...	1 Case.
2. Typhoid Fever—Schooner-man	...	...	1 do.
3. Pneumonia	...	...	1 do.
4. Pleurisy	1 do.
5. Acute Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1 do.
6. Obstructive Jaundice	1 do.

H. ASBOE.

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ALASKA.
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IN an article on "Christianity Among the Eskimos," in the August, 1917, number of *The Missionary Review of the World*, the Rev. Aubrey Fullerton, of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Maryland says:

"In actual distance from the mountain in Palestine where the Master's Great Commission was given, there is no more remote field of present missionary effort than the top of the American continent. It is 'the uttermost part of the earth.' To the very edge of the Arctic Ocean, and even beyond, to some of the Arctic Islands; from the extreme left-hand of the continent, where Alaska almost meets Asia, to Labrador and Greenland on the right; and at a northernmost latitude that would seem to make such work impossible—the Gospel is being preached, and native lives are being touched. There are few more striking instances of the courage, enterprise and power of modern missions than are found in the history of these Arctic missions.

"The people among whom the work is being done are as strange a people as the world can show, and quite as unlikely from a missionary point of view. The Eskimos have undisputed possession of this Arctic and sub-Arctic region, but have no clear idea of how they came to be there. The conditions

under which they live compel them to a constant struggle with nature for the mere privilege of existence. Yet among them are some of the happiest Christians in America.

"There is in the Eskimo character a large measure of native good spirits and kind-heartedness, which helped to give the missionaries a first point of contact. Despite the hardness of their life, and the unceasing urgency of their quest for food and shelter, nearly all the Arctic tribes are naturally cheerful and easy-tempered. When to these good features was added the impulse of a better life, there was developed a type of Christian character, childlike in simplicity and happy in spirit, that counts among the finest trophies of world-wide missions."

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT OF BETHEL.

January 1st to May 31st, 1917.

The past Winter months are rather bare of interesting facts to report. We can, of course, tell of the regular routine, which we have endeavoured to carry out faithfully and cheerfully.

Alaska and Temperance.

Again, as in the preceding report, we make mention of Br. Butzin's being called out on extraneous work. A white man had been shot in a drunken brawl near Apokak. This time he was summoned to act on a coroner's jury.

We are happy to be able to report that Alaska, by her own vote of two to one, or better, has gone dry, and with the Federal Government passing the "bone dry" act, making it a crime to ship liquor into such dry territory, the liquor question will probably no longer menace the natives and settlers of Alaska. The large vote in favour of a dry Alaska was somewhat surprising to many. When you meet the men of the country, you would probably conclude that "John Barleycorn" was unusually well entrenched here. But, behold, the men of Alaska by their own vote have illegalized old "John" in this glorious Northland. It will signify for many the dawning of a new day, at the eve of which they can settle down in comfort to enjoy the twilight of that evening. We rejoice with the men in their victory, but we also know that the "home brew" will not so quickly end. There will still be many who will waste good cereals and sugar to concoct for themselves the debauching slop. The liquor inflaming the men in that fatal brawl at Apokak was such home-made dope. But we do hope that Alaska will be drier than heretofore and happier too.

Attendance at the Church Services.

At the station, the regular services have been kept. Sr. Holtmeier has given considerable time and thought to the teaching of the hymns. As the new hymn-books have not yet come to hand, she printed the hymns on large chart-sheets of

paper. For these Br. Holtmeier prepared a stand, so that we have been able to use these charts for the entire congregation. The average attendance at the services has been fairly good. There are many attractions for a native at such a place as Bethel, and, knowing their easy-going ways, we are not discouraged when some, at times, are lax in their attendance at the meetings in the chapel. The stores are open: the pool-room welcomes them; and many of the miners are glad to have them call and to treat them to tea or coffee. All these things attract these simple and indifferent folk. As we stated in our former report, the white man's dance has also been introduced, and has, of course, not been of any help in their spiritual life. It has fostered family dissensions and petty jealousies—and that even among the men who have danced with them!

But, in spite of the difficulties which we have had to meet, we are hopeful. The allurements and amusements of this day have not affected their faith in God, nor lessened their love for Him and His life-giving Word. The attendance and attention at the services of Holy Week were most encouraging. With our moral and sympathetic and practical instruction, and our every endeavour to interpret those holy truths to them, many will, by the grace of God, build themselves up in the faith and be blessed and become a blessing.

Conditions Changing.

This time of testing is not only touching our people at Bethel, but these new influences are making themselves felt in all our up-river congregations. At Akiak in particular the old conditions are changing. A settlement of white people has sprung up on the opposite shore of the river. Some of the Eskimoes will probably go astray—not able to endure the ridicule or to answer the scoffers, who always will be found in a white settlement. On the other hand we feel confident that many of our native Christians will not be ashamed of ridicule and will silence the scoffers with the able answer of their own lives. The ablest arguments of the wise are often refuted, but a life well lived is irrefutable.

Members of the Greek Orthodox Church.

Our travelling evangelist, Br. Robert Egsack, has spent the greater portion of the travelling days on the main river and among the deer camps. He also spent several days among the tundra people. Many of these people belong, nominally at least, to the Greek Orthodox Church. Unfortunately they might as well be heathen. They have that false security which comes from being baptized and admitted to all the rights of the Church without proper instruction. By virtue of such rite, administered by the priest with all the pomp and paraphernalia, and by virtue of the little cross that dangles at the end of a dirty string at their neck, they believe themselves fit to enter whatever of glory there may be beyond. They are quite ignorant of Christ's teaching,

except in so far as they have, in spite of their indifference picked it up from our and our helpers' preaching and teaching. Their own priests have not enlightened them. They have visited them but seldom. They have baptized many of them, even letting them partake of Holy Communion. They have taught them, also, that the rites of the Greek Orthodox Church are all sufficient and that to leave that one, and only, Holy Church will entail present mysterious consequences and open wide the doors of eternal perdition. Their state of mind, therefore, is a peculiar one, to say the least. They are almost unapproachable. They are ignorant, self-sufficient, overbearing, even insolent, and in all these years have moved away but a very little from the heathenism of the past. Br. Egsack, on his last trip to the tundra, accosted one of these true orthodox fellows.

"Do you not yet perceive that you cannot progress, or arrive at something better, by staying in the old ruts and holding fast to certain traditions?"

Mr. Krataralra thought a while, then said: "I do not understand what you mean to say."

"I mean this: Now we do not go about defaming your Church. You know, whenever we come, we teach the Word of God. Your priests have not done so. They have indeed baptized you and given you Communion, and performed your marriage ceremonies. They have given you ikons and holy water; all things that you can hear or see with your ears and eyes. But, tell me, do you know why you are baptized, why you take Communion, or what that picture means, or what that inscription on your ikons? All these things mean something and you should know them. Don't you realize that with our minds we worship God? All these things may be well and good, but first we must know of God and of His love, and before we can worship Him we must really love Him ourselves. Cannot you understand this?"

"What you say is true. We cannot help but believe that you and your missionaries are good and true, and are working for our good—but, to sever our relations with the Church in which we were baptized and join another, you must know is impossible."

"Why?"

"Because of the results."

And then Robert has to begin all over again, showing the poor man that God is not divided, and that for joining with other believers in Him, even though they may have different names and forms, the good God and Saviour will punish no one.

The work on the dreary tundra is not for an impatient soul. Results are slow. The indifference, the stupidity, the bigotry, the superstition, appal one. But in nature, can you imagine anything more drear and barren and bleak than an Alaskan tundra? Hardly. But do you know that this self-same tundra, in our short Summer, teems with plant life. In a few months the tundra will be red, and black, and red again, with berries!

Blackest night has its dawn. We believe that the hour of day-break for the tundra people is approaching. Let us pray that it be very near.

The Deer Herders' Fair.

In the fore-part of January a Deer Herders' Fair was again held at Akiak. Br. Kilbuck, as Assistant Superintendent, under the United States Bureau of Education, had charge of it. Everything was done with a view to thoroughness and a clear understanding of every decision and ruling. We believe that it was the most successful of the fairs held in our valley. Even men who owned only a few deer, and were not herding, attended every meeting.

Various cases were brought up for trial. The chief herders from the various camps formed the jury. There were cases of dispute between dog-men and herders, but no partiality was shown the deer-men. Not even was any leniency of verdict allowed any chief herder who had happened to get into any difficulty. Carelessness was condoned neither in the case of the apprentice nor in the case of his chief. The deer herders are developing a very healthy *esprit de corps*. Even a white man who had some dispute and difficulty with his herder, and who knows the natives well, submitted his case to this jury. He could not be present in person, so he was satisfied to submit his side of the case in writing. The culprit was present and could plead his own case, but the verdict was in favour of the white man.

Our own herders have again been doing their work well, and at the fair some of our boys carried off some of the choicest prizes. At the time when we turned over 110 head to a buyer from the Yukon our camp was visited and inspected. On such visits there are always some matters needing adjustment, and perhaps some of the younger fellows deserve warning, or encouragement, or it may be that one or the other of them needs to be told that he has "been weighed and found wanting."

You will be pleased to note that the herd has for another year paid its own way and very likely will be self-supporting in the present year. The deer industry is not the least hopeful in our share in the uplift of the Eskimo.

Preparations for the Summer.

While we are waiting for the navigation to open properly, lumber is being prepared for a chapel at Quigillingok. Some of the boards need to be planed. When that is finished, we will be ready for the transports.

We are hoping that the Summer will bring to us the already twice expected couple. Perhaps we dare hope for even more reinforcements. There is still room for workers.

For some weeks we have had no news from the big world outside. What the nations are doing we can imagine, but do not know. We have heard of our own nation entering the war.

But we are hoping that the slaughter of the world's strongest sons may soon have an end, and that His Kingdom may come, and His will be done. We pray and hope most earnestly for the establishment of His Kingdom. Pray that the souls about us here may be drawn to Him who said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me."

FERDINAND DREBERT.

QUINHAGAK.

Very Cold Weather.

The report from Quinbagak, Alaska, for the six months January to June, 1917, prepared by Br. G. A. Stecker, and signed, also, by Br. and Sr. F. T. Schwalbe, speaks of this half-year as being unusual for two reasons. The first reason was that the Winter was unusually cold, and the second, that they had had a great many visitors at this station.

At times the thermometer fell to 20 degrees below zero, and at times even to 36. When coupled with high winds, as was sometimes the case, it was hard to heat a well-built house, and the natives often found it very difficult indeed to heat their poorer dwellings. There was a great deal of snow, too. This covered the ice and at places filled the ravines. In some of these latter, where there was any depth of water, the snow kept the water from freezing, making dangerous places to cross.

Visitors.

Among the visitors is mentioned the name of Br. Kilbuck, who came to inspect the school and the deer herds. Br. Butzin also paid a visit to this station, and the Commissioner for this District spent several days with our missionaries. The Government is doing all that it can in the interest of the health of the natives, and the nurse from Akiak visited Quinhagak and examined all of the people. A large number of white men also visited the station—some to see, or to learn, what the prospects were of obtaining work for the Summer months, while some came to join partners who had already established themselves in the Quinhagak District. These latter, who last Summer had found good prospects in the hills, were preparing to do more extensive mining this Summer.

A United States Marshal proved an unwelcome visitor to our missionaries, because he had with him some prisoners who were being conveyed to the jail at Nushagak. Last Fall a salting station had been built near Aysokak, and three white men had been left in charge of it. One of these married a native woman. All were hard drinkers, manufacturing their own liquor. A fight started among them, and one was shot dead. It was the natural outcome of the life which they lived, as sin can produce only evil fruit. Examples like this, furthermore, make the work of the missionaries all the more difficult. Many of the

white men in Alaska not only claim to be superior to the natives, but also ridicule their heathen customs. Our missionaries, therefore, always regret when occurrences like this are brought so forcibly to the attention of their converts.

Attendances at Church.

The work at Quinhagak has been blessed. The attendance at the meetings has been good, and every Sunday evening, when the services are in the English language, the white men of the neighbourhood have attended, and have seemed to appreciate them. Three adults and a number of children have been baptized here, and two adults were received and six confirmed into Church membership. At the out-stations, three adults and forty-nine children were baptized.

Influence of Native Helpers.

In addition to "Helper" Luan, several others have taken part in the Sunday evening services. This has been a source of much encouragement to our missionaries, as they state that these have not only declared their wish to live more in accordance with the Word of God, but they have also set a good example of Christian living in their daily lives. This has shown itself in many practical ways. They were diligent in their fishing and hunting, supplying not only their own wants, but also having fish to sell, so that there was no want among them. Furthermore, they have shown more than usual kindly forethought in seeing that fuel was supplied for the household before going on the seal-hunting trip of April and May. It is hard for the women to gather wood, particularly at that season of the year, when the snows are melting. This year, the report states, it was a pleasure to see the piles of wood near the houses, and to know that these men were caring in a practical way for their families, and lightening the burdens of the women. Finally, many of these men have learned, in their tasks and in their trials, to lean upon their God in prayer, confident that He cares for them and answers them.

At Eek. "Helper" Neck has continued his good work in teaching the people, sending some of the young men whom he has trained to other villages. At Portage Bay, "Helper" David has also been faithful in caring for the spiritual needs of those under his charge.

Missionary Tours.

On account of the weather, the missionaries were unable to make as extended trips as in previous years. Br. Drebert, Br. Butzin and Br. Stecker visited Eek and neighbouring villages; Br. Schwalbe and Br. Kilbuck visited Good News Bay and Togiak, Br. Kilbuck going as far as Kuluksak. At that time the weather was unfavourable, as it was wild and wet and the result of the trip was not very satisfactory. At Togiak the people had just prepared for a great feast, before scattering for

their hunting. This meant, among other things, the preparation of a great deal of liquor. Our missionaries long for the time when Alaska will be actually as well as legally "dry," and the curse of the "home brew" banished with the rest.

At Good News Bay there has been much sickness and several deaths.

A Hard Winter.

The Winter was a hard one, beset with many dangers. In some places people were lost and frozen. At Quinhagak, our people were spared from unusual loss and suffering, and the health in general is reported good. This was particularly true among the school-children, as will appear from the school report which follows. The health of the children added much to the pleasure of the congregation and visitors on festive occasions, such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Washington's Birthday. The work among the children is, perhaps, one of the most encouraging features of all missionary enterprises. With the help of God, they will grow up a better and happier generation of men and women.

If any children read this report, they may think that a cold Winter in Alaska meant lots of sport on the ice for the children there. Br. Stecker tells us, however, that, when the lake froze over and was safe, there was excellent sport on the ice for just one day and a half. Then snow covered all the ice until the Spring.

After Easter, several families moved away from Quinhagak. All the native men who remained went out seal hunting in their kayaks, returning safely and with fair success. All the white men left for the hills.

At Eek the people have built their own chapel, the mission supplying only the roofing and some nails. Their Thanksgiving collection was used to procure lamps and other furnishings. This has been a gratifying feature of the work, and indicates a good spirit among these people.

Shortness of Supplies.

When this report was written, Spring had come again, and although the weather had not yet been warm, the birds had returned, breaking the long silence of Winter. All were eagerly looking for the arrival of a ship with supplies and provisions. All the provisions in the store had been sold, and the supplies of crackers and flour were exhausted. The children, accustomed to the use of these things, seemed to feel the lack of them the most.

Even in far away Alaska, the suffering caused by the war is felt in the minds and hearts of our missionaries. In closing their report, Br. Stecker and Br. and Sr. Schwalbe add, "We have innumerable reasons for joy and gratitude, but our joy would be much greater if we could only bring some of it to the many who suffer through the war. We constantly think about

them, while we live in peace and have our daily bread. May the King of Peace soon bring peace to all the nations and to every heart! We ask that our friends will remember us in their prayers!"

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT.

Quinhagak, Alaska, May 11th, 1917.

Introduction.

Eight months of school have passed again, and every one of them showed good attendance. Now we will review the work that has been done in school and village during that time. The total enrolment was 52, and the average attendance was very good. Several girls of school age from the orphanage at Bethel found a home here. Three girls from other villages were taken in by the missionaries, to give them the advantage of attending school for a whole term. Another cause for the regular attendance was that nearly all the people stayed here in the Fall, and only a few families left for their usual hunting grounds in the Spring.

On account of the breakdown of the Steamship *Kuskokwim River*, no supplies were received for this school. This was felt more keenly this year because the attendance was so large. We did the best we could with what we had, and through the efforts of the Assistant Superintendent we got some paper, pencils, and books from other schools. It would have been impossible to keep school in the coldest weather, if we had not been able to get the coal from Kinak last Summer. Fortunately there was a supply there for at least two years so we were only too glad to have twelve tons, when we heard that none had been shipped from the outside.

The Assistant Superintendent, Br. Kilbuck, visited this school here in December, 1916, and again in the latter part of February, 1917, on his way to Good News Bay. We were glad to have him with us for a few days. The Government nurse from Akiak, Mrs. Evans, arrived here on the 10th of March, and her five days' visit was very helpful indeed. About the work done during those days more will be said later.

During the last year we had two births and three deaths in this village.

General School Work.

The routine work in the school-room was very much like that in previous years. The children are interested, and many of them are anxious to learn as much as they can. One thirteen year old boy from another village had never been in school before. I started him in the lowest primary class, but his desire to learn was so great that I soon advanced him to the 1st Grade.

He studied at home, and read the lessons as well as any of the others in that class. With most of the children we noticed a decided progress in speaking English.

Until April we had five classes, the Kindergarten class being the largest in number. These little ones are a constant joy to the teacher. We are friends now, and it is a pleasure to see them so responsive.

To practise letter-writing and free expression, the pupils in the Grades were asked to describe a holiday, or an entertainment, or the games they played, in the form of a letter. For this purpose they had to use words which they heard very often but which they had never seen written. Many of the mis-spelled words were very amusing. For instance, one boy wanted to write about a "tug of war," and spelled it "duck of a wall." They like to write letters, and many times in Spring they have asked for paper to write to their friends who had gone to the mountains or to other hunting places.

The younger pupils and the 1st Grade made slow progress in numbers and arithmetic, but those in the 2nd and 3rd Grade showed real eagerness to master all the problems in addition, subtraction, and multiplication, and the 3rd Grade started easier examples in division. Once in a while we had contests in addition or multiplication on the blackboard or orally, and the excitement was intense.

Poems like "The Swing," "the Village Blacksmith," and others, together with numerous mottoes and little verses, were memorized. The recitations and songs at Christmas and Washington's Birthday were enjoyed by all present. The singing and playing games on Wednesday evenings are always looked forward to with much pleasure by the older children. All the young people who happened to be in the village came too, and many times we have had some of the deer herders present with us.

Lessons in physiology and sanitation were given during school hours and whenever opportunity offered. In September we measured and weighed all the school children. The largest pupil was 4 ft. 10 $\frac{5}{8}$ in. and weighed 119 lbs. The smallest pupil measured only 2 ft. 9 $\frac{1}{8}$ in. and weighed only 30 lbs. In March the nurse, Mrs. Evans, examined all the children and every man and woman in the village. The temperature, pulse, and respiration of each person were taken, and all who had any complaint got the proper medicine. In the school considerable time had to be taken to give every child's head a thorough cleansing, and the hair is cut when found necessary.

Industrial Work.

Sewing.

About 20 girls were regular in their attendance at the sewing class on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. As mentioned before, we had no new supplies; but with the wool left from last year,

and old underwear and coats sent in by mission friends, we had many busy hours, and the results were pleasing. Thirty-four pairs of mittens, several pairs of booties, and two boys' shirts were made from this material, and were given out at Thanksgiving. The smaller girls hemmed two dozen towels and a number of handkerchiefs, and sewed pot-holders with blanket-stitch. During the last two months, one dozen aprons and six sun-bonnets were made by the older girls. Before Christmas we had knitting on Tuesday evenings, but after Christmas, when we had less material for sewing, the sewing hours were also taken for knitting. We were fortunate to have so much wool left from last year's supply. Altogether they knit 26 pairs of stockings. One girl, twelve years old, alone knit five pairs of different sizes. Besides that, the girls knitted and crocheted a number of wristlets, belts, and neat looking caps for babies and little girls.

The boys did not have as much manual training this year, as we had little wood, and but few tools for them to work with. When we had ice for skating, they made 14 pairs of skates, and many learned that sport well. Later, the boys made two benches, which were very much needed for the Kindergarten class, as we never had enough seats. During the last three months, the older boys did more or less hunting and getting wood for their parents. The weather was cold, and, as their fathers were often out trapping it was up to the boys to supply the wood. It was encouraging to see the big piles of wood near to several of the houses before the Spring break-up, when getting wood will be difficult again.

Four of the big boys often went hunting with rifle or shot-gun. One boy, 13 years old, promises to be a good hunter. Several times he got quite a few ptarmigan and Spring muskrats.

Cooking.

We had no special class for cooking. The girls who live at the mission-houses had opportunities to help with the cooking, baking, and general house work. One girl from the village was taught how to bake bread.

Washing.

The bathing and washing of clothes was done regularly on Saturdays as in the previous years. The importance of this can be seen by observing the healthy, happy children.

Village Work.

There are now twenty houses belonging to natives in this village. The total population is about one hundred. When measuring the houses we found that they contained 178.63 cub. ft. for each person. Four new houses were built last Fall, and in each house we are glad to note improvements. One man, in

his spare time, before he could build his house, made a bedstead and a chair, which, painted with the native paint, looked neat and comfortable.

Since we wrote the last report, three deaths have occurred. We believe that two of these might have been spared, if a doctor able to observe the dangerous symptoms earlier and give the right medicine had been here.

All the families in this village were very well provided with food. The reasons for this were an unusually good catch of seal last Spring, an abundance of fish, and a good berry crop in Summer. Another reason well worth mentioning is that they had no "native play" at this village, nor were our people invited by another village. No food, or articles of clothing, or hunting necessities, therefore, were played away, and all the children could attend school regularly. This year the people have had to depend more on the native food, as the supply of provisions in the store was very limited. Since the end of March many have had to do without flour, crackers, and sugar.

The severe cold weather and deep snow made trapping rather difficult for the men, but they caught a good number of foxes, for which they received a good price. Muskrats and squirrel are other furs which they sell here. On the 21st of February the first seal was caught. Then followed steady, cold weather, which prevented the men from going out until April. Last Summer, as most likely this Summer again, several of the men earned considerably, with the mission boating. A few men have been asked to work for the miners in the hills. The miners have found new ground, where the prospects are very encouraging, and they want all the help that they can get to work it.

So the work has many encouraging and promising features. The progress is slow but sure. The owners of new houses certainly deserve credit, if one considers what it means for a man here to get enough logs and lumber to build and furnish a house. We only regret that no lumber for building purposes can be procured at reasonable prices.

Moral conditions have been good, and we feel that our people are advancing. We are sure that the next generation, applying the knowledge they now gain, will lead a much better life.

MARIE E. STECKER.

REPORT OF QUIGILLINGOK.

January-June, 1917.

A Severe Winter.

According to some old-timers in Alaska, the Winter that we have just passed through was the most strenuous in twenty years. The steady cold and the continual storms throughout

most of the Winter, made it very unpleasant and even dangerous for any one to be out in the open, especially along this bleak coast, where there is no protection furnished by trees and the villages are few and far apart. Some of the people who wanted to travel or go out trapping were kept at home much of the time by the severe weather. We are very thankful, however, that none of our people came to harm. Although we have heard of many casualties in other sections of the country, these were mostly of white men, who are naturally more daring and less acquainted with conditions than the natives.

Right in the beginning of the Winter we had a heavy snow-fall, and also many a time since, so that there was hardly ever "open trail." The drifting snow would always close up the sled tracks. Whenever one wanted to go anywhere, he had to "break trail" for himself, often wading through the snow up to his knees. When travelling is good it is a pleasure to travel with dog team; but, when the snow is deep and soft, it is very hard work, as you cannot expect to ride on the sled, only occasionally to rest yourself a little. Even with snow shoes it is not easy, when you travel from early morning till night in order to make the next village, sometimes a distance of forty miles.

Thus the missionary did not spend as much time in travelling as he had planned. The villages towards Nelson Island were visited only once. Most of them, however, were also reached by Helpers Dick and Noah at different times. The other villages closer by were reached more frequently by both missionary and helpers.

The conditions that I met with on my trip to Nelson Island were even more pitiable than last year, due of course to the severe weather and the great amount of snow. The picture that I took last year of Tsifaranek village, and which appeared in *The Little Missionary*, would look quite different if taken this year. In fact, there would be nothing visible but a few dip-nets stuck around in the snow. The village was completely covered with snow, even to the highest roofs of the houses. A person had to watch his path very closely, lest he should step through a window. Even these windows, or sky-lights, get covered up with drifting snow. So, every little while some one comes out of the house to clean the snow off from the windows. Here and there you see a hole leading down into the snow at a steep angle with steps cut into it. These are the entrances to the huts, and they have to be constantly watched, too, lest they get blocked up with snow.

Imagine the poor children living in the ground, as it were, practically all Winter, and almost in darkness. During the cold weather they cannot go out of doors to play, as they have insufficient clothing. There is no fresh air to be had inside these huts, and no fire in the stove for days at a time. The drift-wood on the beach, which is scarce at the best, is now all covered up

with snow. In one of the huts, seeing a child with nothing on but a wet and dirty shirt, I asked the father whether the children's clothing was always wet. He said that it was. The under-snow hut was always damp and dripping. There was not firewood enough to keep the house dry, much less to dry anyone's clothing. Washing was impossible under such circumstances; and the children's clothing sometimes actually rots on their bodies before it gets a chance to dry.

To us such conditions seem dreadful. We ask how can these people live? The fact is: they do live, and feel apparently quite comfortable and happy in these surroundings. The population is on the increase too. But there is also very much sickness among them. Many of the children die young; only the strongest growing up to be boys and girls.

The Surrounding Village and Out-Stations.

At all the villages the people are always glad to see us come. Even those who are heathen welcome us gladly; though often they are still indifferent to the Word of God. If they happen to be in the *casige* when I hold service, they listen with respect. Others are more diligent, and especially the Christians give evidence of the influence of the Gospel.

At the out-stations we did not baptize many from heathenism. Even some who had asked for baptism the year before were not ready to take the step now, and of course we did not urge them.

The reason for their unwillingness was fear. At the time the United States broke off diplomatic relations with Germany, the report was received here that our country was already at war. This report spread among our natives like wild-fire. It was reported that, now that our country was at war, the Government would send a schooner to the Kuskokwim this coming Summer to take the Eskimo men away for soldiers; that all those who could talk English, and all the school-boys, would be taken first, and that those who are baptized would be preferred to the heathen. Since I had not said anything of these things, and had declared my ignorance of them; the people thought that I was trying to keep them in ignorance, and was working against them. They have always trusted me implicitly, but since this unfounded report had stirred up fear in their hearts they were not quite ready to believe me; nor were they as eager to come to services. One Christian couple was even unwilling to have their infant baptized, fearing lest that too would be made a soldier.

At Araiaktshak, a village near Nelson Island, the people last year were afraid that we might baptize them without their consent, and were, therefore, unwilling to come to service. This year they have asked to be baptized; but the men were not at home at the time when I arrived. These are more industrious and intelligent than in many other villages.

A greater part of the additions by baptism were in Quigillingok. With the increase in population last Fall we had quite a number of heathen living right in the home congregation. Many had come for the purpose of receiving instruction and baptism. For these we had instruction, together with a class of confirmands, and on Sunday, February 18th, they were received into the Church. Thirteen were baptized from heathenism, one infant was baptized, one adult was received from the Greek faith, and 15 young people received confirmation. It was a day of great spiritual blessing for all present, and a cause for thanksgiving to our Father, who has blessed His work.

The Sunday following was Communion Sunday. So the missionary had "speaking" with all the Communicant members during the intervening week. A few were absent; many had the shaman's help in time of sickness and could not take communion. Those who partook numbered 58, not quite half of the communicant membership.

The Power of the Shamans.

Most of the people know the shaman to be a faker, but in time of danger their faith often fails them and they turn to the shaman, if perchance there may be the slightest hope of recovery. This is especially the case when the missionary is absent, for then they have no one to go to for help. The missionary up to this time necessarily had to be absent from the station a great deal. There should be at least a missionary couple living here and a school teacher. We pray that this hope may be realised this coming year. Much of our medicine, too, was spoiled last Summer in the freight, and could not be replaced. Only what was in bottles was usable at all. So we were often handicapped by a shortage of medicines.

The general health of the people, however, was very good. Since New Year there were three deaths. Two were children and the other an adult. It is encouraging to see that now all the people attend whenever we have a funeral service. At the beginning they were afraid. Among the heathen a corpse is treated with a great deal of fear, and must be got rid of as quickly as possible. It was their custom to bury the dead on top of the ground, by simply setting a strong box on the ground and doubling the corpse into it. Beside these boxes you may see one or two posts with all kinds of trinkets nailed to them, such as tools, weapons, cooking utensils, ornaments, and even pieces of clothing; all of them belongings of the deceased.

Heathen Dances.

This Winter our Quigillingok people were twice invited away to other villages for a big dance. While it is not strictly a heathen dance, it is nevertheless attended with great evils. Each one tries to out-do everyone else in giving away his possessions,

many robbing themselves of the very necessities of life, such as guns, kayaks, boats, and houses, leaving themselves destitute. But they must never regret anything that they have given away; to do so would be a sin. Those who have most are expected to give most. The custom discourages all industry and ambition among the natives. No matter how thrifty a man may be, he can never get ahead, but must help to provide for the lazy ones. We hope that they will soon see the evil of this dance and give it up altogether or modify their giving. They gave up the mask dance and the play to the dead some years before a missionary lived here. At Tshalin too the people did not use the mask dance any more this year.

In every village there are one or more natives of the progressive type, who are willing to accept our Christian customs in exchange for the old, heathen customs, so that we see that the Word of God is steadily and surely winning its way against heathenism.

Passion Week and Easter Celebrations.

As our people move to their sealing camps early in April, we had the Easter celebration two weeks earlier this year than the regular date. At the time there were about 250 people in Quigillingok, a few having come from nearby villages to spend the Easter season. Every evening during our Passion Week we had reading from the native manual. The services were all well attended, especially on Easter Sunday. Our small meeting room could not accommodate nearly all the people. A number found place in the two adjoining rooms, which constitute the missionary's dwelling; and a few even had to go home when they could not get in for the morning service. The unusual silence that prevailed, and the attention paid to the preaching of the Word of God, was proof that all had come to receive a blessing, and that the Lord was present to bestow that blessing. The love-feast in the afternoon was held in two sections, first for the women, then for the men, and the church was crowded each time.

A Church Building badly needed.

A church building is needed, therefore, very badly, particularly so since we have the prospect of a missionary family living in Quigillingok next year. The part now used for a meeting-place will have to be changed into living quarters. The Lord willing, a church will be built this Summer. Plans have been made to build it so that it may be used for school purposes as well as for church services. There is sufficient lumber on hand at Bethel. Some of it is being prepared now. The larger timbers, rafters, and window frames also are being cut and fitted.

For this purpose the Quigillingok missionary is spending the Spring months in Bethel, where this report is being written. He left Quigillingok by dog team in April. We pray the Lord to give faith and consecration to His people in these times when they are left alone.

Whatever the coming year may bring with it for our mission work, we trust that God's kingdom may grow on earth. May the Lord watch over His people, and give devotion and faithfulness to us who are entrusted with the preaching of His word

FERDINAND DREBERT.

—From *The Moravian*.



EDITORIAL NOTES.

PROBABLY, before this Number of our Quarterly is in the hands of our readers the *Harmony* will have reached St. John's, Newfoundland, at the close of her last trip to the Labrador Coast during the present year. Thank God, so far as is known to us, nothing untoward has happened to her since she left our shores last summer, and we trust she may be able to complete her season's work in Labrador without sustaining any serious harm.

Contrary to our practice in the past, the vessel will, in all probability, not return to England this year, but will remain on the other side of the Atlantic, until such time as she can leave St. John's for the Coast of Labrador in the summer of next year. Obviously, this arrangement will have several advantages; for not only will the vessel by this means not be exposed on another homeward and outward voyage to the risks of the "danger zone," but she will be able to visit our Labrador mission-stations earlier than usual in the coming year. Nor does this arrangement necessarily mean that she will lie idle all the winter in St. John's. On the contrary, if our present plans are realised, she will most likely be given plenty of work to do locally during the winter months. May God add His blessing to it all.

Since our last Notes were written the news has reached us of the sudden and unexpected departure at Herrnhut, Saxony, of Bishop LaTrobe, the representative of the British Province of our

Church on the General, or International, Mission Board. We gratefully make use of the following particulars respecting the last days of the deceased, which have come to us from a private source.

On Sunday, September 30th, after returning from church, the Bishop complained of pains in the upper part of the body, which were ascribed by the doctor to derangement of the stomach. The night following was a bad one. The greater part of the next day was spent in bed, but towards evening the patient came downstairs and even spent a little time in his study. The night from Monday to Tuesday was quieter, and the doctor thought him better in the morning, but advised him to stay in bed. On Wednesday he complained of difficulty of breathing and of pressure on the chest, but he did not seem at all distressed. He sat up in bed reading, and took his food quite well. The night of Wednesday was fair, and on Thursday he again left his bed, and, after dressing, busied himself with certain official matters. That day the patient had a good dinner, and no one, including himself, seemed to think that the end was so near. However, during the early afternoon hours, while his wife was resting for a short time in another room, he passed away peacefully. No wonder the telegram that reached us two days later stated that he had departed this life "suddenly and unexpectedly." This was on Thursday, October 4th.

The funeral took place on Monday afternoon, October 8th, the service in the church being taken by the President of the Mission Board, whilst another of the deceased's late colleagues read the burial service at the grave.

Many letters and cards of condolence were received by the widow, and twenty-five beautiful wreaths were sent to the house, these latter being carried to the grave by the children of the remaining members of the Mission Board. Altogether great kindness seems to have been shown on all sides to Mrs. LaTrobe.

Application was made as soon as possible after the funeral for a passport and for permission for the widow to travel to England; but at the time of writing we have not heard whether the application has been granted.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the widow and the many relatives of the deceased, and, as Editor of this magazine, we heartily endorse all that is said in an article which we reproduce under MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE in our present issue respecting the literary and editorial abilities of our late Brother. We are indebted to him for many useful articles that have appeared from time to time in our pages, quite apart from those portions of the Annual Report of the Mission Board which emanated year by year from his "facile" pen. The article in question, which we heartily commend to the attention of our readers, contains a brief Life Sketch of the deceased, and is written by one of his late colleagues on the Mission Board.

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.

The Late Bishop Benjamin La Trobe.

THERE will be very many in all the lands where our Church is known who will be filled with sorrow, as from the loss of a very dear friend, when the news reaches them that Bishop Benjamin La Trobe passed away peacefully at Herrnhut, on October 4th. For he was an honoured bishop of our Church, and one of its missionary leaders, as well as, in his very person, one of the bonds linking together our Brethren's Unity. Everyone who knew him loved him.

The descendant of an old Huguenot family, he also came of missionary stock. His grandfather James, a half-brother of the well-known Benjamin La Trobe of the eighteenth century, was a missionary of our Church in India before the days of Carey, and later served in the ministry of our British Province. Of that Province his father, Bishop James La Trobe, was also an eminent minister in his day, being for many years a member of its Executive Board. Our Brother was born on June 29th, 1847, during the memorable pastorate of his father in the city of Bath, the youngest child of quite a family. Educated in the schools and in the college of our Church in England, for several years he served as a teacher in Ockbrook and in Koenigsfeld in the Black Forest, returning to England to study theology in our Theological Seminary, first in Fulneck and later in Fairfield. On the completion of these studies, his first appointment, though of a temporary nature, gave an indication of the sphere in which his future usefulness should lie; it was that of Assistant Secretary of Missions in London, in 1876, his chief being the well-known and energetic Mission Secretary, the Rev. Henry Shawe.

At his ordination, both as a Deacon in 1877 and as a Presbyter in 1881, the hands of his own dear father were laid on him in blessing. Three brief pastorates were a prelude to what became his life-work: in Fulneck as assistant, 1877-78, in Heckmondwike, 1878-81, and in Haverfordwest, 1881-84. In 1884 he was appointed Secretary of Moravian Missions in London, and as such for the next twelve years he edited the *Periodical Accounts* unquestionably one of the oldest, if not the oldest, missionary periodical that has been published consecutively in the English or in any other language. Those whom this valuable quarterly reached in those years will remember how vividly his facile pen brought the activity of our missionaries before us. During this

period Brother La Trobe actively co-operated with the Rev. Wetton Cox, that devoted Secretary of the London Association in aid of Moravian Missions, to whom our Church will ever owe a debt of gratitude, and his work of deputation made him intimate with friends of Missions and with missionary workers all over the British Isles. It was in this period also that the Society for the Furtherance of the Gospel and the management of our Missions commissioned him to pay an official visit to the Mission in Labrador, in 1888, a visit that enabled him to contribute in a very valuable manner to the work of the General Synod in the following year, a seat in which he had in virtue of his office. With his father-in-law, the late Dr. Harding, a physician and member of our Church in London, he paid a vacation visit in 1891 to the United States and Canada, and made the personal acquaintance of a number of our congregations here—in the event also of great value in view of his future position. This was that of a member of the Department of Missions in the former Unity's Elders' Conference, to which he was elected as the successor of the late Rev. James Connor, in 1896. Herrnhut was therefore his home for twenty-one years; for, with the change in the constitution of our Church in 1899, he was elected by the General Synod as the British member of the Mission Board, as one of the Executive Committee of the Directing Board of the Unity, and as a member of the Committee in charge of the Home for Lepers at Jerusalem, a charity in the founding of which his own father had been deeply interested.

Commissioned by his colleagues of the Mission Board to pay a visit of inspection to our Himalayan Mission in 1901, our Brother was consecrated a bishop at Herrnhut prior to his starting out for this long and peculiarly arduous undertaking. He returned indeed in safety, and very often referred, with satisfaction and with thanks to God, to all he had been permitted to do and to experience in connection with this official visit. But humanly speaking it undermined his hitherto stalwart constitution—he had been an athlete in his younger days. The serious illness through which he passed at Kyelang, and the strain of travel over the fearful passes and dizzy heights, told even on his frame. His power of endurance was sapped. Yet he held on at his post in the Mission Board and worked on faithfully. In particular were his prayers and his efforts directed to the strengthening of the bonds of our Unity, of whose Directing Board he became President on the death of the late Bishop Benjamin Romig, his colleague in the Mission Board. Our Church papers in Britain and in America were often enriched by his pen. And so he worked on, until the infirmities of age and the advice of his physician led him reluctantly to resign his offices at the General Synod of 1914. This resignation was sorrowfully accepted, and his successors were appointed, but up to this present time the then elected British member of the Mission Board has not been able to take up his tasks. It had been planned that this should have been effected in August, 1914, and

arrangements for removal to England had been made, when the outbreak of the world-calamity intervened. By the terms of the charter of the Mission Board Bishop La Trobe was still a member, until his successor had taken his seat. He might have returned to his home-land at the outbreak of the war. But at his age and with his physical infirmities he shrank from undertaking the journey, which would have been a most trying one in those days of turmoil; and he felt, too, that it was providential that he could still serve the Brethren's Unity by remaining at his post. Everyone has honoured him for this self-sacrificing resolve. His loss under the present circumstances is doubly a loss to our Church. His knowledge of all the Provinces of our Church, his lovable and sincere and transparently pure character, and his devotion and sterling faith will be sorely missed in the years to come. Our comfort is that we know he has gone to a well-earned rest, rest for a deeply grieved heart, rest for a soul that yearned for the restoration of peace and good-will. Our very deepest sympathies go out to his lonely widow: may God be with her.

J. T. H.

OBITUARY.

April 6th, at Schoenebeck, Germany, aged 79, Sr. M. E. Heyde, m.n., Hartmann, who for 44 years laboured in the West Himalayan Mission.

August 27th, at Engotini, South Africa, East, Br. Emil Albert Schaerf, who served for 16 years in this Mission.

August 29th, at Neudresden, Prussia aged 57, Sr. A. Buck, m.n., Mogritz., who with her husband served in the Surinam Mission.


September 18th, at Herrnhut, Saxony, aged 89, Br. Hermann Bruno Marx, for 35 years a missionary in South Africa.

At Herrnhut, Saxony, Br. Carl August Wagner, for 39 years a missionary in South Africa.

October 19th, at Zeist, Holland, Sr. M. Baudert, m.n., Suelzle, who with husband laboured for 22 years in South Africa, East.

At Grand Rapids, Wis., U.S.A., Sr. M. Ingebregtsen, m.n. Forbord, formerly of the North American Indian Mission.

October 4th at Herrnhut, Saxony, Bishop Benjamin La Trobe, aged 70 years, who for 21 years has been a member of the Mission Board.





A GROVE OF ROYAL PALMS, ON THE WAY TO SOCO ESTATE.
(See p. 166.)